

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The replacement drawing sheets showing Figures 1 and 2 were received on June 16, 2008. These drawings are acceptable.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Please refer to the Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary (Form PTOL-413B) enclosed herewith. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Clifford Mass on July 21, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, on line 2, "com-bustion" has been replaced with --combustion--.
- Further, in claim 1, on line 5, "character-ized in that," has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 2, on line 1, "characterized in that," has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 3, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 4, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- Further, in claim 4, on line 2, ", typically" has been deleted.
- Further, in claim 4, on line 3, "such as an ampoule (20)," has been deleted.

- Further, in claim 4, on line 4, "and/or" has been replaced with --and--.
- Further, in claim 4, on lines 5-6, “, e.g. when the am-poule bursts” has been deleted.
- In claim 5, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- Further, in claim 5, on lines 4-5, “especially a spring element,” has been deleted.
- Further, in claim 5, on line 7, “, especially a spring element” has been deleted.
- In claim 6, on line 5, "characterized in that the ap-paratus" has been replaced with --wherein the apparatus further--.
- In claim 7, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 8, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 9, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- In claim 10, on line 1, "characterized in that" has been replaced with --wherein--.
- Further, in claim 10, on line 4, “an temperature” has been replaced with --a temperature--.
- In claim 11, on lines 1-2, "characterized in that the temperature monitoring device (20) is" has been replaced with --wherein the apparatus further comprises--.
- Further, in claim 11, on line 3, “tempera-ture” has been replaced with --temperature--.
- Further, in claim 11, on line 4, “the second spray head” has been replaced with --a second spray head--.
- Further, in claim 11, on line 4, "and/or" has been replaced with --and--.
- Further, in claim 11, on line 6, "and/or" has been replaced with --and--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art, alone or in combination, did not show or teach a method for reducing the adverse effects of a fire, including a first step wherein the first spray head is activated and a connection is opened from the space into the duct part via the orifice of the duct part by opening a shutter element, and a second step wherein the connection from the space into the duct part is closed by the shutter element at least when the temperature of the combustion gases and/or smoke exceeds a predetermined value in the duct part or in its vicinity and the spraying through the first spray head is stopped, together with the other recited limitations as set forth in claim 1.

The prior art, alone or in combination, did not show or teach an apparatus for reducing the adverse effects of a fire, including at least one shutter element placed in conjunction with the orifice of the duct and movable between an open and a closed position, such that, in the open position, the passage through the orifice of the duct into the duct is open, and in the closed position, the passage through the orifice of the duct into the duct is closed, together with the other recited limitations as set forth in claim 6.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darren W. Gorman whose telephone number is 571-272-4901. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on 571-272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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